

Line Mapping

Line mapping, or mapping by field notes as it also known, is a way for scouts to draw a map of an expedition route. Scouts make simple notes as they travel and then use these to draw up a more detailed map later.

1. Fieldnotes: Draw a narrow column to represent the route you are going to take. For each stage of the route – such as walking along a section of road, or heading to a summit – record the bearing of the direction you are walking in and the distance travelled. You will have to estimate the distance based on the number of paces you take. Also, take notes on features or the terrain you are passing. In these notes you can ignore the bends and turns, and use the compass bearings to record them. Record the distance of features along the route, such as crossing a bridge at 129m.

2. Rough Sketch: Draw out a rough sketch of the route using the bearings and distances. Use the bearings to draw the direction of the line, and use a simple ratio to convert the actual distances into ones for the map. In this rough sketch 1cm = 100m.

3. Sketch Map: From this, build up the rest of your map. Add more details and include all the main features. Also, include a North sign, a legend, and your scale.

A	148° 50m	MT. MELLEARY
B	22° 805m	TURN TO ROAD LOCAL ROAD BRIDGE + STAFF 300m SLOW CLIMB
C	308° 553m	TURN TO TRACK SLOW CLIMB SOME FOREST @ 500m ON RIGHT " " @ 525m ON LEFT
D	24° 270m	PATH THROUGH FOREST CLEARING 210m END AT CROSS

